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Senate

(Legislative day of Thursday, July 27, 2006)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable JOHNNY ISAKSON, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Father, thank You for today. May we receive the gift of this day thoughtfully, graciously, and gratefully. Thank You for the love of family, for the joy of good health, for the thirst for goodness and truth.

Sustain our Senators in their work. May they be stewards of love, grace, compassion, and patience. Let them never lack the courage or the will to do Your work. Show them the things that must be changed that they may not hinder Your plan. Illumine their path so that they will know how to live for Your glory.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHNNY ISAKSON led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS.)

The legislative clerk read as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 28, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JOHNNY ISAKSON, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ISAKSON thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today, as you just announced, we have a period of morning business. Senators may wish to come to the floor to continue debate on the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security bill. I remind everyone we will have a vote on Monday on the motion to invoke cloture on the energy bill. That is Monday afternoon. Senators should anticipate the vote will occur around 5:30. Again, that is Monday afternoon. Therefore, all Senators should adjust their schedules to be here for this extremely important vote. This is one of the more significant measures we will be dealing with here in the Senate this year. This critically important vote will be at 5:30 Monday afternoon.

I will have more to say on Monday's schedule later when we wrap up the session.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart concerning the violence taking place in Israel and Lebanon. On July 12, Hezbollah committed a reckless act of aggression against Israel by killing eight soldiers and kidnapping two others.

Following this outrageous act, I joined with all of my colleagues in the Senate to support a resolution reaffirming Israel's rights to defend itself. I stand by that commitment, because Hezbollah and its large cache of arms is a threat to Israel and to America.

But I also watched the last 2 weeks, and those last 2 weeks have brought bloodshed on both sides of the Israel-Lebanon border—innocent people dying, families being torn apart, communities being destroyed. It has gone on too long, and it must stop.

I am proud to represent the great State of Michigan. When you come from Michigan, violence in the Middle East isn't just a news story. It isn't just "over there." It is here, and it affects thousands of people—friends of mine, people whom I know and respect. In the case of Lebanon and Israel, this

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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